

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the following paragraphs as shown:

[10] An embodiment of the present invention provides an apparatus for straining water used in association with water supplies in fire fighting. The apparatus comprises a ~~substantially closed, submergible, hollow structure enclosing a volume of space and a connector mounted to the hollow structure over a first opening in the hollow structure. The apparatus also comprises at least one sieve-like material mounted to the hollow structure over at least a second opening in the hollow structure~~ strainer housing comprising a first opening in the housing forming an inlet, a second opening in the housing forming an outlet, and a water channel between the housing inlet and outlet; a pan; and at least one stanchion connecting the pan to the strainer housing; wherein the pan is positioned in a spaced relationship to the inlet of the strainer housing.

[11] An embodiment of the present invention provides a system ~~[[to]]~~ for obtaining sieved water from a source for fighting fires. The system comprises a ~~submergible strainer to take in water from a source of water while keeping out foreign objects. The system further comprises a tank to hold a volume of the strained water and a hose connected between the strainer and the tank to transport the strained water from the strainer to the tank such that the water can be used to fight a fire~~ a water strainer apparatus comprising a strainer housing, a pan, and at least one stanchion connecting the pan to the strainer housing in a spaced relationship, the strainer housing comprising a first opening in the housing forming an inlet, a second opening in the housing forming an outlet, and a water channel between the housing inlet and outlet; a tank to hold a volume of the strained water; and a hose connected between the water strainer apparatus and the tank to transport the strained water from the water strainer apparatus to the tank.

[12] An embodiment of the present invention provides a method to obtain sieved water from a source for fighting fires. The method comprises ~~connecting a strainer to a first end of a hose and submerging the strainer in a source of water. The method further comprises connecting a second end of the hose to a tank~~ providing a water strainer apparatus comprising a strainer housing, a pan, and at

least one stanchion connecting the pan to the strainer housing in a spaced relationship, the strainer housing comprising a first opening in the housing forming an inlet, a second opening in the housing forming an outlet, a water channel between the housing inlet and outlet, and an enclosed volume of space; submerging at least the inlet of the water strainer apparatus in a source of water; and connecting a second end of said hose to a tank.

[22] Referring to Figs. 1A-1E, the strainer 10 comprises a substantially closed, submergible, hollow structure 12, in the particular embodiment illustrated being a rectangular box-like structure enclosing a volume of space. In an embodiment anticipated but not illustrated, the hollow structure could be, for example, cylindrical, with a circular plan aspect instead of a rectangular plan aspect. The top wall 14 of the structure 12 is essentially flat and featureless, and, importantly, closed, so that water does not flow in or out of the structure through the top wall. Side walls are essentially identical, with the exception being the front wall 16A, in which a hole (i.e., opening) is formed and a threaded hose connection 18 is provided. The rear wall 16D is featureless and side walls 16B, 16C can be featureless, although the embodiment illustrated shows them having handles 20. As shown in phantom in FIGS. 1A-1D, the interior of the strainer 10 comprises enclosed volumes of space 50 or air chambers formed on either side of a water passageway 52. The strainer 10 may also comprise air pressurization ports 60 associated with each air chamber 50.